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the winter; moreover, the annual life of this cereal is short, freeing the ground for other uses. In the plains, the maize stalks are used for fuel. The proportion of land devoted to maize has therefore increased since the agrarian reforms and the expropriation of much of the land of the large landowners.

THIS CONCENTRATION on maize production by the peasant farmer has its dangers, besides handicapping the country from the point of view of export. In a succession of dry summers a poor maize crop has a disastrous result where there are no root crops and no winter wheat to fall back on. The cultivation of potatoes and lucerne is being encouraged, but peasant farming is backward throughout the kingdom, though less so in Transylvania and the Bucovina than in the Old Kingdom.

THE MOST intensive maize cultivation is found in the departments of Gorj and Valcea and Muşcel in Oltenia (the sheltered valleys of foothill country of Oltenia) and that of Bacau in the upper Trotuş basin of Moldavia. In these districts, where the annual rainfall is in the neighbourhood of 600 mm., with an early summer rain maximum and a dry autumn, over 50 per cent of the agricultural land cultivated is under maize; but, with the exception of the Black Sea coastlands, the bulk of Roumania has only between 30 and 50 per cent of the cultivable land under cultivation devoted to maize. True, in the higher valleys of the Carpathians, the maize not infrequently fails to ripen, owing to the early onset of cool weather, but early ripening species of maize are sown in the Carpathian valleys. Again, a dry spring and early summer is a grave menace to the crop. It is unfortunate that the least nourishing and latest ripening type of maize is, owing to its high yield, that most favoured by the Vlachian peasant.

WHEAT.

IT IS only in Transylvania that wheat assumes a rôle approaching in importance in the peasant agricultural régime to that of maize. It was being cultivated, however, before the War on an increasing scale, on the large estates of Muntenia, where the steppe type of climate and rich soil conditions (chernoziom on loess and the black and brown

352 The furniture[1] is of the simplest, but much ingenuity is displayed in contriving hinges, benches, and so on, the devices used having an air of ancient custom about them. Nearly all the woodwork could be done with the axe (see 354 p. 47). A simple crane, the probable prototype of the iron ●372 hearth-crane as we know it in Britain, allows the pot to be suspended at the desired distance from the open wood fire, which burns on a rough hearth towards the centre of the stamped earth floor. A certain sanctity attaches to the fire: it is not allowed to go out, and much ceremony accompanies its lighting. The "living fire" (*focul viu*) should be prepared on arrival at the head stână[2] of the commune's pasturage, by means of two sticks rubbed together, and the operation should be performed by a pure youth, otherwise the flocks will fare badly. The fire must then be carried to the other huts. We were not able to observe this custom, but the shepherd-boy at the Stână Găujoara, situated to the north of the watershed some fifteen miles south-west of Sibiu, was persuaded to show us how the fire was lit. Here the more familiar "flint-and-steel" method was used, but in place of flint the sparks were obtained from a piece of quartz, a substitution which suggests one reason for the common ceremonial use of quartz by ancient man in Europe.

233 In the Carpathians, as in Europe generally, there is much 462 variation in the personnel of the transhumant shepherds, but the exclusion of women in some areas is a feature for which ooo parallels cannot readily be adduced. In Norway it is the women who take the flocks to the summer pastures, an arrangement which is natural where the men are fishers. The same scheme is found in parts of the Central Plateau of France, where the men cannot be spared from their work in the fields, and the same appears to have held for the Scottish Highlands. Switzerland offers the best example of mass transhumance, and the movements formerly practised in Wales and in Ireland, though simpler and less regular, seem to have involved men, women and children. The *hafodty*, described by Welsh writers early last century, was a cowhouse with a fire at one end, but no chimney, and, except that the whole was stone-built, the assemblage of pens and shelters must have closely resembled the Roumanian. In Wales, too, ewes were milked and sheep's cheese made into the nineteenth century.

In the Carpathians, while some stâne are inhabited by

1 [in the shepherd's hut -- Analyst]
2 [for explanatory footnote see 51 pp. 49, Cat. 116 -- Analyst]

I. COAL

A. Consumption, Imports, Deposits

372 375 Coal has not played such a large part in Rumanian economy as it has in that of most European countries because of the abundant mineral oil and timber resources which have been used extensively for fuel, both in industry and for household purposes. The following table shows the percentage consumption of the different types of fuel (average 1937-39) :—

	%
Firewood	28·7
Oil and oil products	26·1
Coal	25·9
Methane and other gases	17·2
Water power	2·1

The railways accounted for 60 per cent. of total coal consumption which was of the order of 2 million tons, the balance being divided between industry, household consumption and bunkers.

135 Before the war coal reserves, which are predominantly brown coal, were estimated at 2·7 milliard tons brown coal (including lignite), and 48 million tons of hard coal. The more important deposits are located in southern and western Transylvania, while a few of lesser importance are in the northern area which was ceded to Hungary.

316 429 In spite of the limited industrial development of the country and extensive use of oil, coal production is hardly sufficient for current needs, and it has been necessary to import both coal and coke to fill the deficiency.

Pre-war coal imports in metric tons were as follows :—

	Metric Tons
1935	21,000
1936	23,000
1937	28,000